

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 00561 180529Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 171500Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7391

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0561

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT FOR NEW YARG AMBASSADOR TO US

1. CHARGE CALLED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY FEBRUARY 17
BY DEPUTY MINISTER HUSSAIN AL-AMRI TO BE HANDED NOTE RE-
QUESTING AGREEMENT FOR LTC YAHYA MUHAMMAD AL-MUTAWAKKIL
AS AMBASSADOR AEP OF YAR IN WASHINGTON

2. MUTAWAKKIL IS NOT RPT NOT TO BE CONCURRENTLY YAR
PERMREP TO UN. THIS DEPARTURE FROM PAST.

3. AL-AMRI SAID PURPOSE OF THIS APPOINTMENT WAS TO
"STRENGTHEN AND ENERGIZE" RELATIIONS WITH US. HE REQUESTED
EARLIEST POSSIBLE AGREEMENT.

4. DIPLOMATIC NOTE HAS AS ATTACHMENT BASIC OUTLINE OF
MUTAWAKKIL'S LIFE AS FOLLOWS:
BORN IN SHAHARAH (NORTHWESTERN YAR) 1942
MARRIED WITH CHILDREN
ATTENDED SECONDARY AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN MUHABASHAH
SHAHARAH AND SANAA.
ATTENDED MILITARY COLLEGE AND GRADUATED IN 1961, WITH
RANK OF SECOND LIEUTENANT.
ATTENDED WAPONS SCHOOL AND GRADUATED 1962.
ATTENDED INFANTRY COLLEGE IN MOSCOW 1965.
HAS HELD A NUMBER OF POSTS, INCLUDING (A) DIRECTOR
OF MILITARY DEVELOPMENT, (B) DIRECTOR TO THE OFFICE OF
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PAGE 02 SANA 00561 180529Z

PRIME MINISTER AND COMMANDER AND CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES,

(CL THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES, (D) AMBASSADOR IN RESIDENCE IN CAIRO AND CONCURRENTLY NON-RESIDENT IN LIBYA, (E) MEMBER OF THE COMMAND COUNCIL AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR 1975.

3. US EMBASSY FILES PROVIDE FOLLOWING, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: MUTAWAKKIL WAS FIRED BY PRESIDENT HAMDI AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN JULY 1975. HE HAD BEEN CAPABLE AND HIGHLY ENERGETIC MININT IN BOTH ABDAL AZIZ ABD AL-GHANI AND MUSHIN AL-AYNI CABINETS, WHICH SERVED YAR PRESIDENT HAMDI AFTER JUNE 1974 "CORRECTIVE MOVEMENT" TAKEOVERPOWER FROM FORMER PRES. ABDAL RAHMAN AL-IRYANI. BRITISH ADVSIORS TO MININTSAID MUTAWAKKIL BRIGHT AND HIGHLY CAPABLE ADMINISTRATOR AND ACCESSIBLE DECISION-MAKER. MUTAWAKKIL IS GENERALLY VIEWED BY SAUDIS AND OTHERS AS A MODERATE OR CONSERVATIVE WHOSE FAMILY, TRACING ITS LINEAGE BACK TO PROPHET, GIVES HIM RIGHT TO USE TITLE OF SEYID. HE STRONG FOLLOWING AMONG TRAVAL ELEMENTS IN YEMEN AND COULD BE RAGARDED OVER THELONG TERM AS POTENTIAL RIVAL TO PRESIDENT HAMDI. HE HAS OF COURSE LONG EXPERIENCE IN SOVIET SCHOOLS AND EXCELLENT RUSSIAN. HE IS KNOWN TO BE AMBITIOUS MAN.

4. WHILE HIS ENGLISH IS WEAK, AND WASHINGTON JOB IS CLEARLY KIND OF EXILE FOR HIM, MUTAWAKKIL IS LIKELY TO BE INTERESTED ACTIVE WHO VERY WELL-INFORMED ON YAR AFFAIRS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT, AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANA00561
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760059-0979
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760243/aaaablix.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT FOR NEW YARG AMBASSADOR TO US
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, YE, US, (AL-MUTAWAKKIL, YAHYA MUHAMMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006